Measures for replantation of rubber trees in Kerala

603. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about one-sixth of the area under rubber farming in Kerala have either senile or less productive trees which needs to be replanted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken for the replantation of such rubber trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The total rubber area in Kerala which requires replanting in 2010 comes to around 48,000 ha. *i.e.* 10% of the total rubber area in the State. The replantation is being promoted through the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The scheme provides free technical assistance for replanting and financial assistance of Rs.19,500/- per ha. for replanting an area upto 2 ha.

Indo-US Trade Policy Forum meeting

604. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ministerial level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the United States has urged the Indian Government to check copycat Pharmaceutical drugs, movies and music and also to strengthen its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on such views of the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sixth Ministerial meeting of the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held at New Delhi on 26th October, 2009. The meeting was Co-chaired by Hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma on the Indian side and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ronald Kirk on the Units States side. During the meeting the two Governments decided to continue their bilateral trade policy dialogue under the five Focus Groups: Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers. The two Governments agreed to work together on a framework for promoting cooperation in trade and investment.

(c) and (d) During the Trade Policy Forum meeting details about India's well established regime for protection of intellectual property rights, including in pharmaceutical sector, was conveyed to the US side. India's concerns about piracy of music and movies from India in the US were also conveyed to them.

Trade in Goods Agreement with ASEAN

605. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India entered into Trade in Goods Agreement under Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with ASEAN recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the status of negotiations with regard to Services Agreement with ASEAN; and

(d) the sector-wise details of tariff liberalization benefit that India would get with the signing of Trade in Goods Agreement with ASEAN?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India signed the Trade in Goods Agreement with ASEAN on 13th August, 2009. This Agreement is envisaged to come into force with effect from 1st January, 2010.

(c) Negotiations for Services Agreement with ASEAN are underway and are targeted to be concluded by August, 2010.

(d) Tariff liberalisation under the Agreement would lead to growth in bilateral trade and investment resulting in economic welfare gains to India, Indian exporters of Machinery and Machine Parts, Steel and Steel Products, Oilcake, Wheat, Buffalo Meat, Automobiles and Auto Components, Chemicals, Synthetic Textiles, etc. would gain additional market access into the ASEAN countries. Indian manufacturers would gain additional market access into the ASEAN countries. Indian manufacturers would be able to source intermediate products at competitive prices from the ASEAN markets for further reprocessing and export. Full details of tariff liberalisation offered by ASEAN Countries to India are available at http://commerce.gov.in/trade/international_ta_indasean.asp.

Convergence of G-22 on modalities at WTO

606. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether WTO's G-22 Group comprising of large developing countries like India, Brazil, China, etc. converge on a well defined modality which could be effectively taken up and